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[WHOLE No. 57.]

*From the Globe.*

## UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY.

"Whereas the attention of many of the citizens of this State has, for years past, been directed to the large appropriations of public money made by Congress for the support of the military academy at West Point, in the State of New York; and as it appears evident to them that a very large portion of the cadets received into that school are the sons of wealthy and influential men, who, by the interposition of members of Congress, obtain situations in that institution, to the almost total exclusion of the sons of poor and less influential men, regardless alike of qualifications and of merit; and whereas the practice of educating such persons at the expense of the United States, without any obligation on their part to continue in its service after they have completed their education, or in any way to reimburse to the United States the amount expended in their education, is considered entirely at variance with our views of justice and equity: we are, therefore, of opinion that the said military academy ought to be abolished.

"Resolved, therefore, by the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives requested, to oppose all further appropriations for the support of said military academy."—*Resolution of the Legislature of Connecticut, approved June 8, 1842.*

"Resolved, That we consider the national military academy at West Point, as now constituted, aristocratic and anti-republican in its character; and its advantages to the country disproportionate to the expense of sustaining the same. We are, therefore, of the opinion that the institution ought to be abolished; and the money now required to sustain it should be appropriated to the diffusion of military instruction in the different States."—*Resolution of the Military State Convention, convened at Albany, January 25, 1843.*

There is said to be an elasticity in truth, that enables it to recover from the severest blow, and resume its own form and substance. This quality seems by no means to be monopolized by truth. Judging from the reiterated assertions of a similar nature to the above, there would seem to be an elasticity in error, by the strength of which it rises higher at every rebound from the force that strikes it down.

When the Legislature of Ohio, in 1834, saw fit to instruct the representatives of the State in the National Legislature to oppose any further appropriations for the academy, their censure was confined to general denunciation—not easy to combat, without

going into a long discussion of the objects and operations of the academy. They

"Resolved, That the military academy heretofore established at West Point, in the State of New York, and supported exclusively by the funds of the General Government, is partial in its operations, and wholly inconsistent with the spirit and genius of our liberal institutions."

Leaving it wholly undetermined whether the partiality and inconsistency existed elsewhere than in the mere fact of an institution "in the State of New York" being supported "exclusively by the funds of the General Government."

But the Connecticut Legislature have explicitly stated the reasons—and, from the detail of the preamble, doubtless, all the reasons—wherefore they issue their mandate for its destruction. It is to be supposed that these gentlemen, occupying the distinguished position they hold, acted from sincere conviction. Assuming the facts of the preamble, they could scarcely, in honesty, avoid voting for the resolution. But it is exceedingly to be regretted that a majority of the legislators of an important State could be induced to base so important a resolution upon premises so entirely without foundation.

Their preamble alleges:

1st. The exclusive appointment of the sons of the wealthy and influential.

2d. The disregard of qualifications and of merit.

3d. The bestowal of an education, for which no obligation is incurred, and no compensation is made to the Government. And they are therefore of opinion that the said academy should be abolished.

If we can show, now:

1st. That the sons of the wealthy and influential are by no means the recipients of the whole, or the greater part, of the appointments;

2. That the qualifications and merits of cadets, so far from being disregarded in favor of any one class, are, in a most peculiar degree, attended to, and made the measure of their success;

3d. That an obligation is incurred, by every cadet, to continue in the service of the Government, after completing his education:

Is it not a fair inference that the resolution, founded on these false allegations, falls to the ground of no avail?

Representations have, for some years past, been industriously circulated by the enemies of the institution, calculated, more than any others, to injure it in the eyes of the country—on the score, namely, of aristocracy. But it was to have been hoped that these representations would be confined to the interested authors—persons who, being disappointed in appropriating the superintendence and emoluments

of the institution to themselves, have become its enemies—and to the well-meaning and credulous on whom they imposed, without the endorsement of intelligent legislators, whose business it was to investigate before judging, to know before condemning.

1. In the first place, "it appears evident to them that a very large proportion of the cadets received into that school are the sons of wealthy and influential men, who, by the interposition of members of Congress, obtain situations in that institution, to the almost total exclusion of the sons of poor and less influential men."

How stands the fact? In the month of June, 1842, an inquiry was made into the occupation and circumstances of the parents of the several cadets. The result (received from the cadets themselves) was published, with the report of the board of visitors in detail. We find, then, that of 221 cadets belonging to the academy, the information was obtained of 217. Let us see, now, what is the *very large* proportion of these 217 coming from among the wealthy and influential of the country, to crowd out the poor man's sons. There are—

Of orphans,	-	-	-	22
Of sons of widows,	-	-	-	26
				—
				48

Forty-eight *fatherless* boys; twenty-two of them with no earthly parent! It is scarcely among these that we are to look for the unworthy recipients of the nation's bounty, so indignantly pointed out by the resolution.

Of the remaining 169, we find—

Sons of farmers,	-	-	-	55
" mechanics,	-	-	-	14
" clerks, editors, contractors, &c.,	-	-	-	15
" clergymen,	-	-	-	2
" hotel and boarding-house-keepers,	-	-	-	4
				—
				90

Is it from these classes that the young aristocrats came, to be pampered at the nation's expense?

The remaining 79 are made up of—

Sons of planters,	-	-	-	3
" lawyers, judges, &c.,	-	-	-	26
" merchants and manufacturers,	-	-	-	18
" physicians,	-	-	-	12
" men in civil service of the Government,	-	-	-	7
" officers of the army,	-	-	-	10
" " " navy,	-	-	-	3
				—
				79

Making 20 out of the 217 sons of Government agents, 40 from the learned professions, 48 from among the fatherless, 87 from the farmers, mechanics, and merchants of the land, and the remainder (22) from all the miscellaneous occupations of the country. As to the condition in life with respect to fortune, only *five* were the sons of *wealthy* men; 20 in reduced, or absolutely indigent circumstances; 30 declined answering, who may safely be considered anything but wealthy; and 162 were in moderate circum-

stances. Could a fairer picture of a just and equal representation of American interests be made, than this report presents? The wealthy (comparatively rare in our country) have there but a *very small*, instead of a very large representation. The reduced and indigent (happily but a small class in our favored land) enjoy their fair proportion; while the mass (of moderate means and middle condition in life) constitute, as they should, and always must, under the present administration of affairs, the strength of the academy. If it be objected that this is but a partial view, presenting one favorable case, let us turn to the result of the only other similar investigation that has been made—that of the class of cadets appointed in 1842.

Of the 98 who were received, there were

Orphans,	-	-	-	6
Sons of widows,	-	-	-	22
" farmers,	-	-	-	20
" planters,	-	-	-	7
" lawyers,	-	-	-	6
" mechanics and small traders,	-	-	-	8
" merchants and manufacturers,	-	-	-	8
" physicians,	-	-	-	6
" clergymen,	-	-	-	3
" men in civil service of Government,	-	-	-	3
" member of Congress,	-	-	-	1
" officer of the army,	-	-	-	1
" " " navy,	-	-	-	1
Miscellaneous,	-	-	-	6
				—
				98

Of these, 19 were in indigent or reduced circumstances; 74 in moderate; and *five* were the sons of wealthy men. Of the 22 sons of widows, the fathers of 8 had been farmers, 1 a lawyer, 2 merchants, 1 a physician, 3 officers of the army, and 1 an officer of the navy; of the remaining 6, the occupation was not stated.

The above embodies the result of the only two inquiries that have been made; but we can venture to assert, from an intimate acquaintance with the affairs of the academy for many years, that a similar one would have been obtained at any time within the last twenty years.

A most triumphant refutation of this stale charge would be afforded, indeed, from a bare inspection of the several classes, as they come in their homely garbs to join the academy. Manners, speech, and dialect of every variety; coats of every hue and fashion; and all grades of information attest plainly the fidelity with which every class in the country is represented.

And even supposing, for a moment, that, in the course of events, the rank and wealth of the country should attain a preponderance at the academy—we ask, where would lie the fault, and what would be the proper corrective? The cadets are selected, with a very few exceptions, by the immediate Representatives of the people, (only ten appointments out of the whole number being left to the Executive,) *each Representative in Congress designating an individual from his own district*. Is it possible to conceive any



practicable way of giving the appointments more immediately to the people at large? And if these Representatives are faithless to their trusts, and misrepresent their constituents by designating individuals of only one favored class, are they not directly responsible to the people? and cannot a corrective be applied to the abuse, without the destruction of the academy? Are American legislators to say to the American people, Your Representatives have abused the confidence reposed in them; they are using the power placed in their hands for self-aggrandizement; your only remedy against further injury is to destroy the institution you have created with so much care?

But what says, on this point, the report of a select committee of the House of Representatives, made in 1837, after a most searching investigation into the history and actual condition of the academy?—a report breathing, in every line, a most determined spirit of hostility evidenced upon each point whereon an objection could possibly be hung. It states as follows:

“That the sons of the rich have been preferred to those of the poor, in the selection of cadets for the institution, is also a charge against the institution which has found a place in the suspicions, if not in the convictions, of many honest minds. To what extent, *if to any*, it is founded in reality, the committee are unable to say; it is, however, the everyday observation of all, that when the same privilege is offered to the competition of the rich and poor indiscriminately, the influence of wealth possesses a most decided advantage, and will, in most cases, bear off the prize.”

Here we see that the broad assumption, by the Connecticut resolutions, of the “almost total exclusion” of the poor, dwindles down to a mere *conjecture* of this committee cognizant of all the facts, that, from the nature of things, wealth is likely to have an influence. They can assert positively only that the *suspicion* has found place in many honest minds; but, instead of being able to confirm that suspicion, (which, if well founded, their duty, as honest men, required,) this committee, furnished with the full power of Congress, and showing every disposition to probe to the bottom the abuses of the Academy, are “unable to say whether to *any* extent it is founded in reality.” Why were they unable? Surely not for want of occasion—not for want of information. The minute detail of this elaborate report shows the scrutinizing investigation pursued in *almost* every particular. There were the facts, and the committee had full power to elicit them. Why, under these circumstances, they chose, without positively endorsing this suspicion, to so frame their report as to give it substance, in the very teeth of their admission that no facts appeared to support it;—why, in default of the proof to sustain this heavy charge against the institution, they saw fit to substitute denunciatory commonplaces on the universal influences of wealth, they must answer for themselves.

II. The preamble goes on to complain still further, that these appointments are not only given ex-

clusively to the wealthy and influential, but that this is done “regardless alike of qualifications and of merit.”

Assertions so broadly made, bearing vitally on important national interests, must be presumed to come from men who have endeavored, at least, to acquaint themselves with the facts; it is, therefore, marvellous how the singular incorrectness and injustice of the above assertion could have escaped the notice of men in the slightest degree acquainted with the rules or with the history of the academy. The qualifications required *for admission* are the same for all, whether the applicant be son of the President, or of the porter who keeps his door; the intellectual requirements are slight, within the reach of ordinary intellect and application; and the physical, those common to most youths of that age. Of the rigid and most impartial exaction of these requirements, the whole history of the academy can be adduced in proof. Perhaps one of the most striking illustrations of it occurred only last summer, when a son of the inspector of the academy (an officer of high rank, having immediate control of its affairs under the Secretary of War) was rejected by the academic board on account, solely, of a deficiency in personal strength.

If, by stating that the appointments are made “regardless of qualifications or merit,” is meant merely that superior qualifications of the highest grade are often set aside in favor of the ignorant and uneducated, the assertion is true—most true; and, in itself, a refutation of the charge that the wealthy and influential alone enjoy the benefits of the institution. The qualifications for admission are purposely placed so low as to be within the range of the scantiest means and commonest intellect. Would the gentlemen of the Connecticut Legislature change this? Would they favor still more those who have been blessed with the advantages of education, and shut out from the poor man—unable, of his own means, to educate his son—his only chance? For that would be the practical result of making the success of an application dependent on personal qualifications. It is, in fact, this feature of the institution which commends it to the hearty love and support of the body of the people; it is the *only* institution in the country where the poor man’s son has the opportunity of an education on perfectly equal terms with his classmates. The duties required are alike for all. They go through the same course of mental and physical discipline; dress the same; eat at the same board; and are allowed no privileges not earned by their own personal merit. Starting precisely on the same level, the result of the struggle is determined upon considerations entirely independent of original condition; and the son of a private, or a drummer, (by no means rare appointments,) may take the first honors of the institution, and be called to lead the armies in which his father has served in the humblest capacity.

If an insinuation is intended, that, *after admission*, and in the interior administration of the academy, merit is disregarded in favor of wealth and influence, the assertion is still more unfortunate. The over-

whelming proofs of the contrary are so well known to every man tolerably acquainted with the operations of the academy, that they would not be again offered, but for the reiterated assertions of ignorance and wilful misrepresentation. In point of fact, the strict impartiality for which the academy is notorious, has been the cause of much (if not most) of the ill feeling displayed towards it. It is precisely *because* the sons of the wealthy and influential have, in so many instances, failed, that the impression against the academy has been so widely disseminated. For many years, a favorite topic of abuse has been the severity—the tyranny exercised there in the annual dismissals. Now, it is not the obscure individual, quietly laboring on his farm or in his shop, who details his fancied grievances to the world: it is the man of leisure, of property, of influence; it is the *politician upon the stump*, who feeds his private grudge, and makes political capital, by inveighing against its aristocracy and partiality.

In the class appointed in 1829, was the son of one of the drummers attached to the corps. His own father roused him in the morning with the reveille, and daily beat off at the parade, which his son might have commanded had he remained. Was he any the less respected for the circumstance? Not in the slightest degree: there was decidedly too great a numerical majority in the same condition to permit it. Indeed, in the general scramble for distinction, and from the absorbing nature of the studies, there was not time to pry into the private history of individuals, and many were actually not aware of it. It is true, he left—resigned voluntarily—finding that his previous habits unfitted him for the severe course of mental discipline to be undergone.

But there was another drummer-boy appointed, who not only remained, but remained to do honor to himself, to the Secretary who had the good sense and feeling to extend a hand to the orphan boy, and to the nation—whose pride and boast it has heretofore been, and will, I trust, continue to be, that the doors of her only national seminary have never been shut to friendless merit. These terms are not used with any vague application to round a paragraph. That drummer-boy took the first honors of his class, distinguished himself, after graduating, as one of the most efficient officers of his corps, respected by all who knew him, and is now occupying a high place among the scientific men of the country. With the class of 1830, the son of the tailor of the cadets went through the course with distinction, and graduated, with the highest honors of his class. The class of 1827 was "headed" by a fatherless New England ploughboy, who raised the means of preparing himself for entrance by the labor of his own hands. Next him came the son of Henry Clay; and next in order was a poor (and, I believe, fatherless) boy, who, destitute of means, walked from his native State to Washington, and, without friends, without influence, claimed and got a share of the nation's bounty. An instance, peculiarly in point, coming within the personal information of the writer, is too characteristic to be omitted. After Mr. Secretary Poinsett had made the appointments of 1841, a gentleman made

this appeal to him: "Sir, I think it my duty to bring to your notice a case of merit well deserving the attention of the appointing power. A son of a poor carpenter in the State of Ohio is extremely anxious to enter the military academy. His father's circumstances have not allowed him the benefits of even the most ordinary school education; but the boy has stolen from his hours of sleep all that he has been enabled to devote to study, and, by the light of pine knots, has made himself master of a very considerable amount of mathematical science. He has not a friend in the world to back his claim; and I have only this letter from an officer of the army, who became accidentally acquainted with the circumstances, to offer as a voucher of the facts. Without influence myself, I have nothing but the merits of the case to offer for your favorable consideration." The appeal was successful: out of the few appointments at his command, the Secretary, with his characteristic good feeling, bestowed one upon the young man, who is now enjoying its benefits.

And what has been the fate of those sons of the wealthy and influential to whom so much has been awarded, "regardless alike of qualifications and of merit?" No less than three of the special protégés of General Jackson, appointed while he was President of the United States, were dismissed from the academy; a son of a former Secretary of State, while his father was still in the Cabinet; and, no longer ago than the last examination, the only cadet appointed specially by the present President was found deficient, and sent off. A son of the Major General commanding the army, some years ago, was put back one whole class, while his own father presided at the board of visitors appointed to examine. A son of a former superintendent of the academy was dismissed while his father was present, and in actual command. A nephew of a former inspector of the academy met the same fate; and, as before mentioned, a son of the present inspector was even denied admission, after receiving an appointment from the Secretary, solely for deficiency in personal strength. Does this look like a disregard for merit in favor of the high and influential? Nor are these that have been quoted rare instances: they are selected merely as the most striking illustrations, showing the inability of the highest rank and most powerful influence to secure an exemption from the stern justice of the adopted rules. The history of the academy abounds with them; and it has long been a matter of remark, that the honors of the classes have been borne off almost exclusively by the cadets of obscure parentage and small means.

It is, in fact, inconceivable how those who are most thoroughly interested in the preservation of this school, (we mean the mass of the people,) of moderate or limited means, can have suffered themselves so long to be deceived by the misrepresentations of the ignorant and of the designing. It must be attributed, in great part, to the supineness of the friends of the institution; among whom may be numbered all those who, with no self-interest to warp their judgments, are acquainted with its practical operation. The necessity of some military college to train



the men who are to lead our armies, must be admitted by every man at all aware of the onerous responsibilities committed to them, and of the peculiar information required of them. If not selected by the nation from the people, and educated by the nation, under the eye of agents of its own appointment, thus attaching them to its interests—whence will these officers be taken in the hour of need? There may be men (as is often asserted) among the farmers, the mechanics, the lawyers, &c., of the land, who, inspired by Heaven, can lead our armies to victory. But where are the officers to be found who are to take immediate command of the men—to provide for their comfort in the field—to know how to avoid useless exposure at one time, and nobly, but knowingly, to lead them into danger at another—to understand exactly the object of a particular manoeuvre enjoined, and the means of carrying it into execution? It takes small intellect, and not very long experience, to make a carpenter. Would a master-workman, because *he* knew exactly what was required, and could point it out to others, take common laborers to build a house, because he could get them cheaper than mechanics? He must have men bred to the business. And will it be pretended that we can find under our hand, in time of war, men who can turn from the plough and the hammer to “set a squadron in the field?” The sober second thought of the American people, never at fault when fairly applied, must show them the utter futility of expecting from men who have never turned their attention to it, proper performance of a duty requiring, more than any other, the advantages of good teaching and long training. The twaddle of military academies “never creating a Napoleon or a Washington,” is beneath the dignity of a serious answer. No body, in his senses, ever pretended that they would or could of their own force. No sane man looks to such a result as the object of such an academy. Genius is, in all ages, and under all circumstances, distinguished for “swallowing all formulas.” But, because they are not to be expected to produce monstrosities, is the natural and healthy fruit of their labor not to be cared for, and trained, and nurtured to a strong manhood, to afford the tools for genius to work with?

The cant of decrying military instruction because we can “find officers enough whenever we want them,” may do to fill out the speech of a mouthing politician, but may scarcely be addressed seriously to sensible men. Brave and devoted officers we can doubtless find—men ready to leave their homes and business at the call of their country; but without practice, without experience, without military instruction—men who would be learning the rudiments of the profession of arms on the very field where they should be teaching others. It is not to be contended that the few parades in the course of a year, (which can constitute, at most, the service of a militia,) can, by the remotest possibility, qualify a man for this. Actual service alone can make a soldier—and that, too, not for a week or a year, but by the devotion of a life.

The militia of this country must, of necessity, be

its reliance in the event of war; and more glorious materials no country need desire. But the sacrifice of blood, the waste of treasure, and the disastrous results to the country, consequent on giving these materials a wrong direction, or leaving them without any direction at all, are risks too fearful to be lightly incurred.

In reference to this necessity of military and scientific instruction, and to the means of obtaining it, let us consult the opinion of the committee whose report was before quoted. Do they propose, even in destroying the academy, to lessen, in one iota, the amount of instruction to the officers? Quite the contrary. They say:

“From the nature of the objections to the present constitution, operations, and expense to the Government, of the military academy, already delineated in the preceding pages, one of the obvious modifications required in the institution to adapt it to the present condition and wants of the nation, is to abolish entirely the system of educating cadets in the elementary and theoretic sciences. The numerous, extensive, and economical facilities that are furnished by colleges and other literary seminaries, now in successful operation in nearly every section of the Union, for qualifying the youth of the country in all the branches of elementary and theoretic sciences involved in the art of war, and now taught at the military academy, constitute additional considerations in favor of this modification.

“Instead of the instruction which shall be thus discontinued, it is recommended that the same thorough knowledge of the sciences which it involves, and which are applicable to all arms of the service, as well as to each particular arm, be prescribed as indispensable qualifications for appointment to the lowest grade of commissioned officers in the army of the United States.”

The committee are far from denying or undervaluing the necessity of either military instruction proper, or a knowledge of the sciences involved in the art of war. The latter, “*as now taught at the academy*,” they propose to make an *indispensable* qualification for appointment in the army; and, in place of the present academy, to substitute “a military school of application and practice, in which the officers of the army of the United States shall be instructed to apply practically, for military purposes, the several branches of the elementary and theoretic sciences involved in the art of war.” In their opinion, the instruction now received is not sufficient. The officers, after mastering the course “now taught at the academy,” should go through another. But what is the notable conclusion arrived at, flowing from their recommendation that the academy, as now organized, should be abolished? Why, that with “the numerous, extensive, and economical facilities that are furnished by colleges and other literary seminaries now in successful operation in nearly every section of the Union,” young men may fit themselves, at their own expense, for appointment in the army; that is, *those who can afford it* may first obtain what may be termed a thorough scientific education, at a very considerable cost, and then

receive their commission, if they can get it; but no others shall have a chance. A pleasant way this, of redeeming the aristocracy of the army—a pleasant proposition for a professed friend of the people to make them. With respect to the “numerous and economical facilities in every section of the Union,” the writer of these remarks can state that he is from a quarter where these facilities are most abundant, of the highest order, and most easily attained; and he knows they are not equal to the ends required. And he might be permitted to speak with some feeling, in adding, that, even had these facilities existed, they would have been of no avail to him—his means not permitting their enjoyment. The path of science, and the service of his country, would have been shut to him, as to the vast majority of the graduates, but for the *gratuitous* education at West Point.

III. “And whereas, the practice of educating such persons at the expense of the United States, without any obligation on their part to continue in its service after they have completed their education,” &c., &c.

The framer of these resolutions could not have taken the trouble—or perhaps his opportunities did not allow him—to read the *laws* regulating the institution. It was enacted by Congress on the 5th July, 1838, “That the term for which cadets hereafter admitted into the military academy at West Point shall engage to serve, be, and the same is hereby, increased to *eight* years, unless sooner discharged.”

We perceive that the cadet is *obliged* to serve four years after graduating. What more could be asked of him? Is he to be required to serve a lifetime? Is he to be debarred the privileges of the meanest American citizen—to give up his personal liberty, and bind himself to a state of servitude forever? On these conditions (and the reasoning of some of the opponents of the institution leads directly to this conclusion) the galleys would be preferable to our army, and few much above the galley-slave in feeling would be found to fill its ranks. Four years’ service is required as an earnest of his sincerity in adopting the profession of arms, and to compensate to the country the cost of his education; and few who remain four years, are desirous to break their old associations and change their mode of life.

While on this point, let us correct an error, which appears to be as universal as unbounded. To judge from expressed opinions, one would fancy that the Government selected certain individuals from the different quarters of the Union, and gave them, with no ulterior object, an education; that, after this education was received, the Government presented to those who were willing a commission in the army; while the others were left to pursue the occupations their taste or necessities prescribed, without a sense of benefit conferred on the one hand, or obligation incurred on the other. Partiality has been charged on the Government for giving commissions only to the graduates. The mistake lies in this: the mal-appraisal of the appointments conferred. The army is to be officered—how is it done? Instead of taking a young man directly from the bosom of his family, without military knowledge or experience,

and placing him in command, (as is done in the English army,) the Government chooses from among the mass of the people those whom the Representatives of these people designate as most worthy. It says to these young men: You shall be made officers, provided only you show yourselves worthy of command. Before placing you in command, your capabilities must be tested, and the necessary training given you. Four years’ instruction is essential to your acquiring the proper information, unless the emergencies of the state require an immediate call to active duty.

The cadets are officers, in fact, from the moment of receiving their warrants—subject to martial law, and liable at any moment to be called upon to perform military duty in the field. They are anything but the mere irresponsible beneficiaries of Government favor they have been so industriously represented.

That the Legislature of a State, however, composed of men who, from their situation and avocations, may be presumed not familiar with the operations of such an institution,—that such men should adopt hasty conclusions, founded on misrepresentation, and concur in a sweeping denunciation of the aristocratic and insufficient academy, is, perhaps, not so strange as that a body of men calling themselves soldiers, with the institution in their own State, and under their own eyes, should hazard an assertion so little borne out by facts, as is included in the resolutions of the military convention of the State of New York,—that these men should consider the institution “aristocratic and anti-republican,” with every opportunity, both from profession and position, to observe its daily workings, is indeed strange. They propose to abolish it, and, by way of substitute, (for these gentlemen will hardly deny the necessity of some military instruction for the country,) that “the money now required to sustain it should be appropriated to the diffusion of military instruction in the different States, inasmuch as “the advantages to the country are disproportionate to the expense of sustaining the same.”

Now, what would be the effect of such a distribution of the funds? The cost of the military academy, including pay, subsistence, &c., of professors and teachers, erection of buildings, purchase of library, apparatus, &c., and every other expense, averaged, from its commencement, in 1802, to 1834, inclusive, \$99,049 98. From 1822 to 1834, inclusive, it averaged \$125,470 17. Suppose this latter sum, (which may fairly be assumed as the present annual cost of the academy,) divided on the same basis as the issue of arms and accoutrements by the General Government—that is to say, according to the militia force of each State—it would allow, by the last official returns, for the military instruction of each militiaman of the country, the sum of seven and one-third cents, (a fi’penny bit per man, soiences included!) It takes a good deal more than a fi’penny to make a soldier, or even any considerable approach to one.

It is unnecessary to dwell on the absurdity of attempting to impart—say, in the State of Massachusetts—military instruction to 87,000 militia, scatter-



ed over the whole State, with the sum of \$6,400, the amount due her in case of a distribution. New York might be able, with her share, to give one or two good dinners to her 998 generals and general staff officers, but would not probably accomplish much more. Even granting that the sums to be allotted New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, could be made of avail, it is scarcely a supposable case that the other States, whose scanty allotment would be in fact thrown away, would give up the certain benefit secured to a fixed number of her sons each year, for the very disinterested purpose of promoting military science in these three great States.

The notion of dividing the amount now appropriated yearly by the General Government, is too wild for a serious answer. The idea of increasing this appropriation, in order to make it of any real benefit, is still wilder.

S. S.

THE U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY AND CAPTAIN ALDEN PARTRIDGE.—We beg leave to say a few words, in reference to the plots of the designing man whose name we give above. A Militia Convention held at Norwich, (Vt.) not long since, is his last demonstration. This Convention, which was composed of the "officers, non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates" of the militia of Vermont and some adjacent States, not only undertook to discuss the merits of military system, but went so far as to declare that "*the militia is the only CONSTITUTIONAL and safe defence of our independence.*" It is well reserved for this peculiar age of heresies and nonsense, to advance notions not worth the trouble of contradiction, even though our history had never witnessed the deeds of the regular army, during two wars with Great Britain. This Convention is the type of others of the same character which have been held in various quarters, the object of all which is to break up the National Institution at West Point, and erect State Academies in its stead, under the management of such tacticians as Capt. Partridge, who may be regarded as the *auctor et princeps* of the first popular sensation against our Military Academy.

This hoary headed calumniator and most consistent hater was for some time prior to the year 1817, the superintendent of the Military Academy. Those were the days when the Library was composed of two copies of Mavor's Universal History, when the mathematical course was not so transcendental as "Hulton's Complete System," and when, in short, to use a familiar expression, "Cadets graduated by the rule of three." True, some noble fellows left the Academy in those days, but they were indebted to their own intellectual elevation for it. Events transpired which led to the expulsion of Capt. Partridge and to his retirement from the Army. It is unnecessary to recapitulate them. Suffice it to say that money was too much the object of his ambition. The fuel which supplied the quarters was sold by one of his cousins or dependents, the mess hall was supplied by another, other situations were filled by his confidential servants, and they even occupied the places of non-commissioned officers in the company of "Bombadiers" then stationed there. Thus Capt. Partridge saw golden streams flowing towards him

from a dozen different directions, while the true interests of the Academy were neglected. A day of reckoning came. He was displaced, his *cordon militaire* was invaded, the shop-keeping passed into other hands, the "Bombadiers," under the brave Douglass, were ordered violently to break up their *attachments* and march to the Niagara frontier in twenty-four hours, where, Douglass' battery being on an exposed bastion, they suffered much in life and limb. In short, the whole system was swept clean, and then Colonel Thayer, one of the first officers of this age or any other, made the Academy what it is.

Since these events, Capt. Partridge abhors standing armies, and is very atrabilious when the Academy is named. He did not retreat however, without taking the liberty of dropping scattering shots at his successors, which, like random firing generally, has sometimes taken effect. He has published we know not how many pamphlets against Col. Thayer and his coadjutors. In one of them we well remember the exultation with which he alludes to the "*barometrical*" observations made of the highlands about West Point, and boldly challenges a comparison between the science taught by him and his successors.

Now we need hardly inform our readers that a boy of eight, with a *nigger* to carry a mountain barometer, without knowing any thing of the mercury and atmospheric pressure, can easily be taught to read a graduated scale and calculate heights by it. But we will follow Captain Partridge, not in his heights, but his distances. He established a Military Academy (*eo nomine*) at Norwich, Vt., the graduates from which were too often dismissed from West Point incontinently. They had learned indolence and a habit of disobedience there, which made them poorly calculated to succeed.

But his Academy soon being recognised as a school of dissipation, and its owner having too much regard to money, its lights went out, and he got up a similar institution at Middletown, Ct., where he was again found at his old tricks and again the doors were closed. He is now, we believe, in Norwich again, but what he is doing we know not. He did not retire thence, however, without making attempts in Virginia, and overtures every where, to propagate his military establishments, which attempts have signally failed, and left him with a hatred towards the regular army and the Military Academy which has increased in envenomed malignity until, from being a natural disgust, it has become idiosyncratic. Capt. Partridge is not *altogether bad*, nor do we wish to make him appear so. But it is our duty to warn our readers, and particularly those who may be called upon to legislate in Congress for the academy and for the Army, against his atrocious machinations. Capt. Partridge is doubtless, or *was*, a good *physical* soldier. He is tolerably well acquainted with "*grand tactics*," and, without any pretension to science or accurate military knowledge, has made himself well known as a rather popular lecturer on that most engaging of topics, the composition and manœuvring of armies in the field, and the details of most of the great battles of the last two or three centuries. He has approached the popular side of military knowledge, and has gained a certain reputation for which any one of moderate abilities might easily contend. We have hoped to see a cessation of his warfare, but his *sedentary* militia are ever marching and counter-marching in a menacing way. His latest demonstration we have referred to above, and he will doubtless show his consistency by keeping up a feeble fire at well regulated military establishments, as long as he can procure ammunition at the expense of others. *Savannah Republican.*

### ***National Institute.***

*From the National Intelligencer.*

The early growth of the "National Institute for the Promotion of Science" has been remarkable, both in degree and character. While it has gathered round it an interest which is not confined to the immediate place of its establishment, or even to the country which it is destined hereafter to adorn, it is indebted thus far to individual favor alone for its support and advancement. It will readily be perceived how inadequate to these objects are its precarious resources. The very liberality, which in continual bounty provides for it objects which are adapted to its character, and are well calculated in themselves to promote its usefulness, becomes a burden when means are wanting to give to the fruits of benevolence a reception and display corresponding with their variety and value. A monthly record of contributions reflects honor upon the kindness and public spirit of the donors, whose numbers are daily increasing, and whose good will knows no bounds. But the proofs of their taste and kind feeling are imperfectly provided for, and sometimes altogether neglected, from the narrow fortunes of the infant establishment. There is no ascertained place of permanent or even secure deposit. There is no fund from which supplies in any degree proportioned to daily necessities can be derived. A few voluntary contributors to a precarious and inadequate treasury have furnished, as they might be able, a portion of the expenses which are required, and have in many instances received into their care for the moment objects of interest which could not be provided for elsewhere.

With such disadvantages as have been adverted to, the experiment has been fairly made. It never was expected that a National Establishment could subsist upon individual bounty alone. When it shall have derived dignity and confidence from the permanent encouragement of the Congress of the United States, it may well be hoped that private munificence will frequently pour out its stores, and that a laudable pride will be felt in mingling personal associations and favors with the steady support contributed by the Government. A period has now arrived when legislative assistance may be expected without arrogance, and sought without presumption. They who hoped to behold in the fullness of time an institution of rich endowment and established utility were perfectly willing to incur all the hazards of the experiment. Having done so, not without occasional effort and even loss, they embrace the occasion of appealing at once to the sympathies of the public and the patronage of the Government.

This body, at first the cherished hope of a small number of persons at the seat of the General Government, and soon to become the expanded reality of national pride and usefulness, is already an object of attention in distant parts of the world. As yet, altogether unendowed by public bounty, it is nevertheless the possessor of much that is precious in art, literature, and science. The nation itself is compa-

ratively young in years and in the career of accomplishment. Yet in various places it witnesses the matured growth of establishments that emulate the merits and hope to rival the fame of time honored institutions in the European world. Scarcely a populous neighborhood is without its praiseworthy ambition to distinguish itself as the abode of letters or the source of useful instruction. A hundred colleges are planted throughout the land. Many of them, assuming the name and exercising the functions of Universities, afford opportunities for education the most varied and complete. Associations already numerous, and constantly increasing, have been formed, and are flourishing, not only with a view to a practical encouragement of the mechanic arts, but to profound researches into the mysteries of nature and art, and a development of them for the purposes of science and the elegancies of life.

While these happy indications of an improved and vigorous age have been discernible, and have kept pace with its gigantic march, a great central institution of congenial character has been wanting, which, harmonizing with existing establishments in the promotion of the ordinary aims of learning, might possess properties and uses peculiar to itself. The Government of the United States, having with regard to foreign nations the attributes of other sovereignties, is limited and accurately defined in the sphere of its domestic influences. Without special legislation it does not become a patron of the arts, or a direct promoter of science and letters. No national Museum, no classic Louvre, no richly adorned Vatican, no commemorative Walhalla, rise up or flourish here at the mere pleasure of a prince. Yet, in their essential attributes, such establishments may become trophies as glorious, sources of light and knowledge as prolific and profitable, monuments as well adapted to the fame and honor, to the benefit and instruction of a republic, as those splendid works of British, French, Italian, or Bavarian munificence. The difference under different kinds of government being that, in one, the monarch commands and the work is executed; in another, the people originate, and the national authority confirms.

Though yet of recent birth, the "National Institute" has been long enough in existence to give entire confidence to the hopes of those who designed it, and practically to exhibit some of the various uses in which it may excel. Qualities and attractions have been proved to belong to it which establishments otherwise organized and connected could scarcely possess. The political and diplomatic agencies of the Government, whether in foreign lands, or in the remote yet domestic regions of our own country, or in the heart and centre of its long-settled districts, furnish opportunities for obtaining matter of curious interest and valuable instruction. This would find no becoming place in the organized department or bureau, and yet would occasion deep regret if it were left unnoticed or doomed to perish. Its abiding place is found in an institution which, fostered by the Government, is yet distinct from it; which, deriving existence from individual enterprise, may be chiefly supported by national expenditure.



In the most generous rivalships of local associations, jealousies may arise to mar their happy intercourse. These would scarcely exist towards a common coadjutor, which, possessing a general resemblance, would yet be essentially different from themselves. Between bodies so related to each other, an interchange of good offices might be constant without danger to their respective interests. An institution represented, as it were, throughout the civilized world, may become possessed of much which it may distribute without a sensible diminution of its stores. It could receive in return, and with reciprocal benefit, productions of local and domestic origin, either for its own enjoyment, if it should not already possess them, or for renewed dissemination through the Government agencies abroad. In the circle of curious and interesting matter, whether of nature or art, whether literary or scientific, there is scarcely a class of objects that may not be profitably and acceptably interchanged. From the organic remains of by-gone vegetable and animal existence, to the living productions, the Natural History and the Botany of the present day; from the rude specimens of the manufactures of half civilized regions to the richest products of highly cultivated skill; from the simplest improvement in mechanics to the highly wrought effusions of the educated and accomplished mind; every thing that sheds light upon the past condition of the earth, and its successive changes and inhabitants, upon the course of civilization and the development of human intellect, may be exchanged with mutual advantage. In this work of reciprocal benefit and delight, to the extent, variety, permanence, and frequency of which a limit cannot easily be set, the Institute is calculated particularly to excel.

All the interests of the country will turn with pride towards a spot which shall identify with each of them the metropolis of the nation. The seat of political duty is necessarily there. Why should not the seat of learning and the arts be there also? These are benign and pacific influences. Aloof from the exercise of power, this institution will in unobtrusive perseverance cultivate and encourage them. In the performance of its not ignoble task it may afford one additional incentive for confidence in the permanence of a happy union, like that reliance which cheered the latter hours of WASHINGTON. The city which bears his name may be distinguished for the promotion of the liberal arts, as well as for the exercise of legislative wisdom.

Nor can the most fervent advocate of rights which were reserved in the formation of the Government take alarm at the principles on which the Institute is founded. Adhering in letter to the Constitution, it has sought its abiding place on the spot where there is no other than Federal legislation—a spot which is entitled to its exclusive exercise. The people of this District have no peculiar representation. Their interests, their municipal honor, and their prosperity as a community, are thrown upon the care of the nation. May not the welcome duty be discharged which shall render them a dignified and enlightened society? This city may become a chosen region of the arts—a recipient of the productions

of nature from throughout her vast domain—a home for science—a residence for literature—a theatre in which the simplest manners and the least artificial institutions will be found more than compatible with accomplishment in its most varied forms. The National Institute will be the ark in which philosophy and the fine arts shall dwell together; and the Genius of Liberty will spread her wings around it, that it may be preserved for ages.

A charter was granted by act of Congress, approved July 27, 1842. The Institute is thus identified with the Nation and its Legislature. It is, however, without certain funds or permanent support. Having fully proved its capacity for useful existence if properly sustained, it will seek for more certain reliance than any which it has heretofore depended on, at the hands of Congress. With a view to this object, and others of less vital character, a meeting of the Board of Management was called at the office of the Secretary of State, who is *ex officio* a director on the part of the Government. The meeting took place on the 23d of December, and was attended by a considerable number of gentlemen in addition to the official board. The subjoined is a formal minute of the proceedings.

#### BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE.

SATURDAY, December 23, 1843.

Meeting of the Board of Management of the National Institute, and other gentlemen whose attendance was invited by the Board, at the office of the Secretary of State.

The meeting was organized at the suggestion of the Hon. A. P. URSHUR, Secretary of State, who moved that the Hon. JOHN QUINCY ADAMS should take the Chair, and that Jos. R. INGERSOLL should act as Secretary.

These appointments being unanimously agreed to, Mr. FRANCIS MARKOE, Jr., the Corresponding Secretary of the Society, and one of the members of the Board of Management, at the request of Mr. URSHUR, read certain articles of the constitution and by-laws, which relate to the Board of Management.

The Hon. C. J. INGERSOLL being invited by the Hon. Mr. Urshur to state the objects of the meeting, after certain remarks, moved the following resolutions:

*Resolved*, That the Board of Management of the National Institute deem it expedient and proper to memorialize Congress on the subject of the condition and wants of the Institute.

*Resolved*, That a committee of five persons be appointed by the Chair to prepare a memorial for this purpose, to be previously submitted to the Board of Management for the sanction and signature of its members.

*Resolved*, That the memorial be presented to the Senate by the Hon. Mr. Woodbury, and to the House by the Hon. Mr. Adams.

These resolutions were unanimously adopted:

The Hon. Mr. URSHUR then desired that, preparatory to his offer of certain resolutions, two circulars

heretofore issued might be read. They are as follows:

*Extract from the Proceedings of the National Institute for the Promotion of Science.*

At a stated meeting of the National Institute, held on the 13th June, 1842, the Hon. John C. Spencer, Secretary of War, and one of the Directors of the National Institute on the part of the Government, submitted the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the President do appoint a committee of five members to devise and execute such measures as may be most effectual to invite the liberality and public spirit of our countrymen in aid of this Institute, and to obtain contributions in money, property, and such articles as are adapted to its purposes.

Whereupon, the resolution having been adopted, the following members were appointed by the Chair to constitute the committee:

The Hon. J. C. SPENCER, Secretary of War, *Chairman*.

The Hon. WILLIAM C. PRESTON, U. S. Senate, South Carolina.

The Hon. LEWIS F. LINN, U. S. Senate, Missouri.

The Hon. J. R. INGERSOLL, House of Representatives, Philadelphia.

The Hon. ABBOTT LAWRENCE, Boston.

At a subsequent stated meeting, held on the 8th August, the chairman of the above committee, on its behalf, made the following report of its proceedings, with a verbal explanation of the several portions of the report:

The committee appointed to devise and execute such measures as should be deemed expedient to obtain contributions and other aid to the Institute, would make an informal report.

They propose making an appeal to the public by disseminating an account of the Institute, its past efforts, its condition, and its prospects, and an exhibition of the many reasons why it should be sustained and encouraged by the citizens of the United States. In their judgment the best means of doing this will be the publication of the remarks addressed to the Institute by the Hon. Mr. Preston, Senator from South Carolina, on the evening of the 13th of June last.

They also propose to address circulars to prominent individuals in different States, inviting their co-operation, particularly in receiving and transmitting contributions.

They recommend that the Institute authorize the President and Secretaries to sanction their circulars by their official signatures.

They propose that a meeting of the learned men of our country, distinguished for their attainments in the different sciences, particularly in those termed physical, should be held annually at the seat of the General Government, at some early period of the session of Congress, under the auspices of the Institute, to communicate the results of their inquiries, to compare their observations, and to promote the general interests of science. It has seemed to the committee that this Institute affords an opportunity which ought not to be neglected of concentrating the

genius and learning of our country at a common centre, from which the beams of intelligence will radiate to gladden and bless the land.

They recommend that, in addition to the powers already conferred, the committee be authorized to make arrangements for such a meeting, at a day as early as may be found practicable, and to invite the attendance of those who may desire to participate in its proceedings.

They think that a system of exchanges of mineral and geological specimens, and perhaps of other articles, with the private and public collections in different parts of the Union, may be established with reciprocal advantage; and that the Museum of this Institute may, by these and other means, be enabled in time to exhibit the various treasures of our different soils; and they would suggest the appointment of a committee to whom this subject should be given specially in charge.

JOHN C. SPENCER, *Chairman*.

Whereupon, at the stated meeting of the Institute, held on the 12th of September, 1842, the foregoing report having been called up for further action, the following resolutions, intended to carry out the views of the committee, as described in their informal report, were submitted by the Hon. JOEL R. POINSETT, President of the Institute, and adopted:

*Resolved*, That the several propositions contained in the informal report presented to the Institute by the committee appointed to devise and execute such measures as may be deemed expedient to obtain contributions and other aid to the Institute, be approved and adopted by the Institute.

*Resolved*, That the eloquent remarks of the Hon. Mr. PRESTON, Senator from South Carolina, addressed to the Institute on the 13th of June last, be published and distributed in the manner and for the purposes proposed by the committee.

*Resolved*, That the circulars proposed to be addressed to prominent individuals by the committee, in order to obtain their aid in receiving and transmitting contributions, be sanctioned by the official signatures of the President and Secretary of the Institute.

*Resolved*, That the committee be empowered to issue invitations in the name of the Institute, and to make all necessary arrangements for a meeting of the learned men of our country, and of all persons who take an interest in the promotion of science, at the seat of Government, and at such a period of the session of Congress as the committee may deem expedient for the purposes suggested by them in their report.

*Resolved*, That, for the purpose of carrying into effect the recommendation of the committee on this subject, the system proposed in the provisional report of the committee on exchanges be adopted.

True extracts from the minutes:

GARRETT R. BARRY,  
*Recording Secretary.*

CIRCULAR.

WASHINGTON, October 15, 1842.

SIR: We have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of certain proceedings of the National Insti-



tute, at meetings held in this city in the months of June, August, and September last. We would invite your attention particularly to that portion of those proceedings which contemplates meetings of the scientific men of our country at the seat of the General Government, under the auspices of the Institute. It has appeared to us that in no other way could the intelligence, science, and practical observations of our countrymen in the different parts of the United States be so easily collected as by the mode proposed. Many gentlemen of science will be drawn to this place by their business, and to others, the additional inducement of an opportunity to witness the deliberations of Congress will increase the probability of a general attendance.

It is certainly desirable that assemblages for the purpose contemplated should be as general as possible, so as to combine the representation of science from every section of our land. We may not compete with the British Association, which has already achieved so much good, in the extent and depth of scientific researches; but it is believed that discoveries in nature and improvements in the arts are constantly made in the United States, which remain unknown or unappreciated for the want of some medium by which a knowledge of them can be more generally diffused.

The object of the present note is rather to obtain preliminary views and information in regard to the time and mode for convening the first meeting, and the probability of success in the effort. The last Monday in November next has been suggested as a convenient time for the first meeting. Will you have the goodness to communicate your views on these subjects to the Chairman of the Committee, to whom the matter has been entrusted, as soon as may suit your convenience?

Very respectfully, your obedient servants,

J. C. SPENCER, *Chairman*,  
WM. C. PRESTON,  
LEWIS F. LINN,  
JOSEPH R. INGERSOLL,  
ABBOTT LAWRENCE,  
*Committee.*

*Circular from the Committee appointed by the National Institute for the Promotion of Science in June, 1842.*

WASHINGTON, February 24, 1843.

*To the Friends and Correspondents of the National Institute and the Members of Scientific and Learned Societies of the United States, &c.*

On the 15th October last a circular was addressed to the scientific and literary men of the United States, transmitting a copy of certain proceedings of the National Institute for the Promotion of Science, and inviting particular attention to that portion of the proceedings which contemplated the general meeting proposed by the Institute to be held at the seat of Government.

This circular was at first attempted to be sent directly to individuals, but it was soon found impracticable to address all who were entitled to special invi-

tation. The members of the Institute, and those who had, in various ways, most liberally contributed to the promotion of its objects, were of course expected to attend; yet the difficulty of obtaining all the names and residences of others, eminent in the various branches of knowledge, rendered it necessary to resort to a more general mode of effecting the purpose. With this view the circular was published in the papers of the District of Columbia, and was thus made general.

The object of the first circular was not to fix any particular time for the meeting, nor was it intended by the Institute or the committee to make Washington the place of all subsequent meetings, if it should appear to be contrary to the judgment of those who had the right to decide upon such an important question. It was rather to obtain preliminary views of the friends of the Institute, and general information as to the time and mode of convening; and afterwards to adopt a plan and a time (which might be gathered from the replies of those whose opinions had been solicited) to be the most convenient.

These replies have been numerous and interesting, and present, almost without exception, a decided approbation of the step that has been recommended, as well as of the course of the Institute, under the auspices of which that step has been begun. The committee, after having carefully considered these replies, have come to the conclusion that the month of April, 1844, is the period which will best suit the convenience of all.

The committee were aware that several previous attempts had been made to get up a similar meeting upon the plan of the British Association, and that those attempts had proved fruitless. Perhaps too much was expected at a time when our learned men were unprepared for co-operation in such extended plans. But the idea had found favor, and it may be affirmed justly that we owe, in no small degree, to the system of State geological surveys, the present improved prospect of accomplishing a noble and long-cherished object.

Under these circumstances, about three years ago, some of the gentlemen engaged in the New York survey (the fruits of which are already beginning to appear in published volumes, reflecting honor upon the liberality of the State and credit upon the abilities of those who have been engaged in that great enterprise) proposed to bring about the object by a different method: circulars were sent by them to geologists of other State surveys, and a meeting was held in Philadelphia in 1840. This meeting was respectable, and resulted in the formation of the "Association of American Geologists." It adjourned and met again in Philadelphia in 1841. At the second meeting it was deemed expedient to adopt the foreign plan of changing the place of meeting; Boston was chosen as the place for the third meeting; at which its objects were extended, and the association became the "Association of American Geologists and Naturalists." The fourth meeting is to be held in Albany during the month of April, 1843.

The proceedings of this Association had been witnessed by the National Institute with feelings of deep interest; and, in 1841, a formal invitation was sent from the latter to the former, requesting them to make Washington the place of one of the annual meetings. The invitation was promptly accepted, and it has been decided that the fifth meeting of the "Association of American Geologists and Naturalists" is to be held in Washington in the month of April, 1844.

The disadvantages and inconveniences of two meetings have, after mature reflection, appeared to the committee so obvious that they have thought it best to fix the first Monday of April, 1844, as the period for the general meeting; and they take this occasion and mode of respectfully inviting to Washington, in the name of the National Institute, the members of the American Philosophical Society, the oldest scientific institution of our country, the members of the Association of American Geologists and Naturalists, and the members of all other scientific and learned societies in the United States, the honorary and corresponding members and friends and patrons of the Institute, and all others engaged and concerned in the "increase and diffusion of knowledge among men."

The plan of operations will be left entirely to those who may be present on the occasion. The Institute and the committee, without attempting to control them in any manner, charge themselves with the duties of making every preparation in their power adapted to facilitate the scientific objects the promotion of which such a body may be supposed to cherish.

J. C. SPENCER,  
*Chairman of Committee.*

The reading of the circulars having been concluded, Mr. URSHUR proposed the following resolutions:

*Resolved*, That the committee of five members, appointed in June, 1842, to devise and execute such measures as may be most effectual to invite the liberality and public spirit of our countrymen in aid of the National Institute, and to obtain contributions in money, property, and such articles as are adapted to its purposes, be requested—

1st. To appoint a member to supply the place of the late Hon. Dr. LINN, Senator from Missouri, deceased.

2d. To add three more members to the committee.

3d. To prepare a third circular, in which an appeal shall be made to the liberality of the public.

4th. To announce that the Hon. Mr. ADAMS has consented to deliver, at some future time, of which notice will be given, the annual discourse before the Institute; and that the Hon. Mr. WALKER has consented to deliver the address at the opening of the meeting called by the circular of the committee on the first Monday of April, 1844.

5th. To make definitive arrangements for the details of the contemplated meeting of April next, and to see that they be carried fully into effect.

And they were unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman appointed the following persons as

a committee to prepare the memorial to Congress: Mr. RICHARD S. COXE, Mr. PETER FORCE, Colonel J. J. ABERT, Mr. A. O. DAYTON, Mr. F. MARKOE, JR.

The Hon. Mr. WOODBURY made the following remarks:

Mr. WOODBURY observed that he should accept the honor which had been conferred on him of presenting the memorial to the Senate for relief to the Institute. He should do this, and support the measure if necessary, for one or two reasons, which might have an influence with some in its favor, who, like him, would otherwise entertain doubts as to its being constitutional. The committee just appointed to draft the memorial might also deem it expedient, among other things, to state in it, and thus bring early to the attention of Congress, such views as were calculated to obviate any constitutional objection to relief; and hence he craved their indulgence, as well as that of the other gentlemen present, for detaining them a single moment with stating those reasons. The first one which had operated on him was that the Institute was situated in the District of Columbia, over which Congress possessed the power of exclusive legislation: a power much less limited in character than that which it possessed over the States. On this account chiefly, though a strict constructionist, like his friend on the left, (C. J. INGERSOLL,) he had felt justified in voting to incorporate the Institute. But there was another strong, if not stronger consideration, which seemed to him to justify not only the act of incorporation, but an appropriation for the aid to be asked in the proposed memorial. It was this: The Institute was a public body, and, among other things, engaged in the care of certain articles of public property; and, what most gentlemen might not be aware of, the aid requested was towards defraying the expense incurred by this care. The expense consisted chiefly of postages on correspondence in relation to those articles, and of the freight and due preservation of them. He said those articles were public property, and the Institute a public body, because, so far from being a private enterprise, or its labors devoted to private objects, or the right of its members to the collections under its charge being of a private character, it was public throughout, and the legal interest in the whole was, by the charter, expressly reserved to the United States. Such he knew was the intention of its founders, and he believed it had been fully carried out in the act of incorporation.

There is nothing belonging to its individual members which can be inherited by heirs, transferred to creditors, or sold or assigned to purchasers, as in case of corporations for banks, bridges, insurance, manufacturing, &c.

Care was taken originally to make the Institute different from all other chartered bodies, even in this District, so as to elevate it above every motive of personal gain—dedicating its labors exclusively to objects of a public character, and vesting all the property possessed for this purpose in the Government itself; and thus, by rendering it *national* in substance as well as name, to obviate any constitu-



tional objections which might arise against measures in its behalf.

When the community or Congress advert to these circumstances, it will at once be seen how broad a distinction exists between assistance to such a body and one of a private character, and where the members possess a private pecuniary interest.

Let gentlemen understand, then, that it is not the liberal object of encouragement to science and literature which animates many of the members of the Institute, and has induced them to incur such personal labor and sacrifices for increasing its collections, nor the active interest excited in their behalf in many of the civilized portions of both hemispheres, which in my view renders it strictly constitutional as well as proper for the Government to aid in defraying the small expense incurred in making and preserving those collections; but it is that the legal interest in the whole of them belongs by the charter to the General Government itself, and, consequently, the whole are deposited in the public buildings and are under the substantial control of the officers of that Government. When we add to these considerations the facts that the first articles placed in charge of the Institute were collected from the War, Navy, and State Departments, in some of which trouble and expense had before been incurred in taking care of them, and that many of the additions since are from persons connected with those Departments, and that by law the heads of all the Executive Departments are *ex officio* members of the Institute, and exercise the chief official power over its concerns, it seems reasonable, no less than constitutional, for that Government to assist in the expense of taking care of its own property. It is quite as reasonable as if it all remained, where a portion of it was originally, in the exclusive custody of several of the Executive Departments; and quite as honorable as reasonable, when we reflect that all the interference of others with this property, all the services and donations of others connected with it, have been with a view to aid the interests of the Government rather than their own private emolument, and to advance its reputation and usefulness in the cause of science, literature, and the arts, so far as it can be done by the careful collection and preservation of many valuable articles of public property, suited to throw new light on and promote those great objects.

P. S. In order to render the whole proceedings complete, it is proper to state that the Hon. Mr. WALKER has been appointed in the place of Dr. LINN, deceased, on the committee of June, 1842; and the Hon. Mr. RIVES, the Hon. Mr. CHOATE, and ALEXANDER D. BACHE, Esq., Superintendent of the Coast Survey, have been added to the same committee.

REVENUE CUTTERS.—The revenue cutter Ewing, Lt. Hunter, arrived at the public store, Staten Island, N. Y., on Saturday from a cruise in which she had been boarding vessels and supplying them with provisions and men. She has experienced very heavy weather and has a number of her crew frost bitten. She was completely covered with ice and it is supposed that seven tons were cut off her bulwarks, &c.

## Communication.

### ARMY MATTERS, NO. 2.

The following law was passed in 1802: "That when any commissioned officer shall be obliged to incur any extra expense in travelling, and sitting on general courts-martial, he shall be allowed a reasonable compensation for such extra expense, actually incurred, not exceeding one dollar and twenty-five cents per day to officers who are not entitled to forage, and not exceeding one dollar per day to such as shall be entitled to forage."

By a decision of the Attorney General, the benefits arising from this law have been made to extend to members of Courts of Inquiry.

The wisdom and propriety of this law cannot for a moment be questioned; it is designed to reimburse officers in part, for the extra expense to which they are necessarily subjected while absent from their posts on duty as members of Courts Martial and Courts of Inquiry. It is, however, unfortunately limited to this particular kind of duty. There are many other descriptions of service upon which officers are daily placed, where they are subjected to similar extra expense, and no provision is made by law to cover it. They are, for instance, detached from their posts as members of Regimental Courts Martial, of Boards of Survey, of Medical Boards for the examination of candidates for admission into the Medical Department, of Boards for selecting sites for forts, barracks and hospitals, of Boards to attend the annual examination of the Cadets at the Military Academy, of Ordnance Boards, of Engineer Boards, &c. While performing any of these kind of duty, they are subjected to the same expense as members of Courts Martial or Courts of Inquiry, and no possible reason exists why they should not be allowed a like *per diem*.

The injustice resulting from the limitation of this law may be easily illustrated. Suppose a general court-martial, composed of officers stationed at Old Point Comfort, is ordered to convene at some post in the Department, and that a regimental court-martial, composed also of officers stationed at Old Point, is ordered to convene at the same post, at the same time, and remains in session the same number of days.

The officers of the general court-martial would receive a *per diem* of one dollar and twenty-five cents, while those of the regimental court would receive nothing. Again: Suppose while "the Board of Officers" is attending the annual examination of the Cadets at the Military Academy, a general court-martial is ordered to convene at the same post, and remains in session the same length of time as the Board. The officers constituting the court-martial, who are perhaps merely ordered from the harbor of New York, receive for each day occupied in travelling to, attending on, and returning from the court, one dollar and twenty-five cents, whereas the members of the Board, many of whom are unavoidably ordered from a distance and subjected to great expense, receive no *per diem*. Many other similar





**Proceedings in Congress.****SENATE.**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 1844.

Mr. CRITTENDEN remarked that the other day there was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, the petition of John H. Pennington, of Baltimore, asking for an appropriation to test the efficiency of his invention for navigating the air, or flying. Mr. C. said he had not been able to perceive that it was referred to the military committee with any sort of appropriateness. It was not the art of flying they had to do with, but that of standing and fighting. He therefore moved that the committee be discharged from considering the petition. Agreed to.

Mr. CRITTENDEN said he had been instructed by the Committee on Military Affairs, to which had been referred the message of the President of the United States, communicating, in compliance with a resolution of the Senate, copies of the proceedings of the court martial in the case of Second Lieutenant Buell, of the 3d infantry, to move that the same be printed. The motion was agreed to.

The following resolution, submitted by Mr. SEMPLE yesterday, was taken up and agreed to, viz:

*Resolved*, That the President of the United States be requested to cause to be communicated to the Senate an estimate of what would be the additional expense to the Government, of requiring each of the armed vessels of the United States attached to the home squadron to leave New Orleans once a month, and visit alternately the principal ports on the eastern shore of the island of Cuba, San Domingo, and Porto Rico, thence to sail down the coast of the Caribbean sea and Gulf of Mexico, touching at the principal ports in Venezuela, New Grenada, Guatemala, Mexico, and Texas, and thence return to New Orleans; and also of sending a vessel once a month from New Orleans, by Havana, Matanzas, and Kingston, Jamaica, to Chagres, and back to New Orleans.

The following resolution, submitted yesterday by Mr. BREESE, was taken up and agreed to, viz:

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Naval Affairs be directed to inquire into the expediency of providing for the examination of some point at or near the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, by some competent officer of the navy, to be appointed by the President of the United States, and to be associated with some skilful officer of the corps of topographical engineers, to be appointed in like manner, and to report to the next session of Congress upon its advantages and capabilities for a naval depot and dock-yard; and into the expediency of appropriating a sum of money for that purpose, equal in amount to the sum appropriated for the examination of the harbor of Memphis, in Tennessee; and that the said committee be authorized to call before them and examine competent civil and other engineers, acquainted with that locality, as to its capabilities for such naval depot and dock-yard; and also that they inquire into the expediency of establishing a marine hospital at or near said point, and that they report by bill or otherwise.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5.

The PRESIDENT *pro tem.* laid before the Senate a communication from the War Department, transmitting abstracts of the latest returns of the militia of all the States and Territories, with their arms, accoutrements, and ammunition, made to that department under the requirements of the law providing for the national defence by the establishment of a uniform militia system throughout the United States, which, on motion by Mr. EVANS, was ordered to lie on the table, and be printed.

Mr. BAYARD presented a memorial from sundry commissioned and warrant officers on board the United States ship Vincennes, at Boston, praying that the office of professor of mathematics may be abolished in the navy, and that naval schools of instruction be established in its stead. Referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

The bill from the House, authorizing the President of the United States to make a transfer of appropriations for the naval service, under certain circumstances, was taken up, read twice, and referred to the Committee on Finance.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7.

Mr. EVANS, from the Committee on Finance, reported, without amendment, the bill authorizing the President of the United States to make transfers of appropriations in the naval service. The bill was read a third time and passed.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1844.

The bill for the transfer of naval appropriations was taken up, the question pending being upon an amendment proposed by Mr. MILTON BROWN to add the following:

"Nor shall such transfer be made from any head of appropriation which may require another appropriation at any future time to supply the deficiency occasioned by such transfer."

The yeas and nays were taken, and resulted as follows—yeas 105, nays 58. So the amendment was agreed to.

The bill was then ordered to be engrossed, and to be read a third time now; and it was read accordingly.

On the question of its passage, the yeas and nays were taken, and resulted as follows—yeas 101, nays 68. So the bill was passed.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2.

Mr. CAVE JOHNSON, on leave, offered the following resolution; which was agreed to:

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Naval Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of employing a portion of the navy, and the officers and seamen, in removing the snags, and keeping open the Mississippi and Missouri rivers.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3.

The House having resolved itself into Committee of the Whole, the CHAIR announced that the first business before the committee was the bill for the relief of the widows and orphans of the officers, seamen and marines of the United States schooner Grampus, and that the amendment pending when the bill was last up, was that offered by Mr. BELSER to strike out that part of the bill which provides a gratuity of six months' pay to the relatives over, and above the pay actually due at the time of the loss of the vessel.

After debate, the amendment was rejected.

The bill being reported to the House, Mr. CAVE JOHNSON renewed the motion made in committee to strike out the words which provided for the payment of certain sums to relatives, so as to prevent the payment to "brothers and sisters."

The amendment was agreed to—yeas 85, nays 81.

Mr. FRICK moved to insert the following words:

"Or the minor brothers and sisters."

The House adjourned.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5.

Mr. CATLIN presented certain petitions praying that the Spirit Ration in the navy may be abolished, and such other beverage substituted as, in the judgment of Congress, may be best calculated to promote the welfare of the navy. They were referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

**ARMY.****WAR DEPARTMENT.***January 18, 1844.*

Article 84 of the "Ordnance Regulations," and paragraph 898 of the General Regulations for the Army, are hereby amended, by adding after the word "repair" third line from the bottom, "nor until they have been regularly condemned by an inspecting officer or by a board of inspection, when the services of an inspecting officer are not available, which Board will be organized in such a manner as the Commanding General of the Army shall direct.

**J. M. PORTER.**

The foregoing Regulation is published for the information and government of the Army.

**BY ORDER: R. JONES, Adj. Gen.****ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, Jan. 31, 1844.****RECRUITING SERVICE.**

[CIRCULAR.] **ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,**  
*Washington, Feb. 5, 1844.*

The established printed enlistments, amended in certain cases, according to the requirements of the "Circular," published February 12, 1842, respecting aliens, are, from and after this date, restored to the original form. The words "Naturalized Citizen" will not hereafter be inserted in any enlistment.

**BY ORDER: R. JONES, Adj. Gen.**

**1ST. ARTILLERY.**—1st. Lieut. W. H. French, with one Corporal and six privates of the 1st Regiment of Artillery, ordered to report to Major Graham, of the Corps of Topographical Engineers, at Washington, for duty as Sappers on the Boundary Survey under the Treaty of Washington.

**1ST. INFANTRY.**—The rank of brevet Major has been conferred upon Captain J. J. Abercrombie, to take effect from the 25th December, 1837.

Resignation of First Lieut. Ferdinand Coxé accepted, to take effect January 31, 1844.

**2D. INFANTRY.**—The rank of brevet Colonel conferred on Lieut. Col. Bennet Riley, to take effect from the 20th June, 1840.

**NAVY.****PROMOTIONS.**

*By and with the advice and consent of the Senate.*

Wm. B. Shubrick, a Captain in the Navy, to be Chief of the Bureau of Provisions and Clothing, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Charles W. Goldsborough, agreeably to the nomination.

William K. Latimer to be a Captain in the Navy from the 17th of July, 1843, from which time he was promoted, in the recess, to fill a vacancy occasioned by the death of Captain Samuel Woodhouse.

A. S. Ten Eick, now a Commander, to be a Captain in the Navy from the 10th of December, 1843, to fill a vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Captain W. A. Spencer.

John Pope, to be a Commander in the Navy, from the 15th of February, 1843, from which time he was promoted in the recess, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Commander Wm. Boerum.

Levin M. Powell to be a Commander in the Navy, from the 24th of June, 1843, from which time he was promoted, in the recess, to fill a vacancy occasioned by the death of Commander Edward S. Johnson.

Charles Wilkes to be a Commander in the Navy, from the 13th of July, 1843, from which time he was promoted, in the recess, to fill a vacancy occasioned by the death of Commander Alex. J. Dallas.

Elisha Peck to be a Commander in the Navy, from the 17th of July, 1843, from which time he was promoted, in the recess, to fill a vacancy occasioned by the promotion of Commander W. K. Latimer.

T. J. Manning, now a Lieutenant, to be a Commander in the Navy from the 24th of July, 1843, to fill a vacancy occasioned by the death of Commander A. B. Pinkham.

William Pearson, now a Lieutenant, to be a Commander in the Navy from the 10th of December, 1843, to fill a vacancy occasioned by the promotion of Commander Abraham S. Ten Eick.

J. H. Adams to be a Lieutenant in the Navy from the 15th of February, 1843, from which time he was promoted, in the recess, to fill a vacancy occasioned by the promotion of Lieutenant John Pope.

W. A. Parker to be a Lieutenant in the Navy from the 15th of February, 1843, from which time he was promoted, in the recess, to fill a vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Lieutenant J. T. Homans.

J. D. Johnston to be a Lieutenant in the Navy from the 24th of June, 1843, from which time he was promoted, in the recess, to fill a vacancy occasioned by the promotion of Lieutenant L. M. Powell.

J. N. Maffit to be a Lieutenant in the Navy from the 25th of June, 1843, from which time he was promoted, in the recess, to fill a vacancy occasioned by the death of Lieutenant John B. Cutting.

Washington Gwathmey, William Ronckendorff, William B. Beverley, and John Hall, to be Lieutenants in the Navy, from the 28th of June, 1843, from which time they were promoted, in the recess, to fill vacancies occasioned by the loss of Lieutenants A. E. Downes, G. M. McCreery, W. S. Swann and Hann Gansevoort, on board the schooner Grampus.

Francis Lowry to be a Lieutenant in the Navy from the 4th of July, 1843, from which time he was promoted, in the recess, to fill a vacancy occasioned by the dismissal of Lieutenant E. M. Vail.

W. E. LeRoy to be a Lieutenant in the Navy from the 13th of July, 1843, from which time he was appointed, in the recess, to fill a vacancy occasioned by the promotion of Lieutenant Charles Wilkes.

Maxwell Woodhull, to be a Lieutenant in the Navy from the 17th of July, 1843, from which time he was appointed, in the recess, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the promotion of Lieutenant Elisha Peck.

Strong B. Thompson, now a Passed Midshipman, to be a Lieutenant in the Navy, from the 24th of July, 1843, to fill a vacancy occasioned by the promotion of Lieutenant Thomas J. Manning.

Lafayette Maynard, now a Passed Midshipman, to be a Lieutenant in the Navy, from the 19th October, 1843, to fill a vacancy occasioned by the cashiering of Lieutenant A. R. Taliaferro.

Roger N. Stembel, now a Passed Midshipman, to be a Lieutenant in the Navy, from the 26th October, 1843, to fill a vacancy occasioned by the death of Lieutenant G. J. Wyche.

George Colvocoressis, now a Passed Midshipman, to be a Lieutenant in the Navy, from the 7th December, 1843, to fill a vacancy occasioned by the death of Lieutenant A. H. Marbury.

Washington Reid, now a Passed Midshipman, to be a Lieutenant in the Navy, from the 19th of December, 1843, to fill a vacancy occasioned by the promotion of Lieutenant William Pearson.

Francis S. Haggerty, now a Passed Midshipman, to be a Lieutenant in the Navy, from the 19th December, 1843, to fill a vacancy occasioned by the death of Lieutenant Wm. J. H. Robertson.

William Worthington Russell to be a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps, from the 5th of April, 1843, at which time he was appointed to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Second Lieutenant John J. Berret, agreeably to the nomination.



